



Approved Minutes
Historic Preservation Board

Date: June 2, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: 57 E. First Street, Lower Level Council Chambers

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Jim Taylor, Chair Wendy Mack-Allred, Vice Chair Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D. Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D. Dane Astle	Janice Gennevois Louise Swann	John Wesley Kim Steadman Jeff McVay	Councilmember Glover Sandra Andrews Christine Close Vic Linhoff Donna Benge

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:02p.m.

2. Approval of the May 5, 2015 minutes

First Motion made by Board member Schaffer-Metcalf to approve the minutes as amended and seconded by Board member Astle.

Motion carried 5-0 (Board members Gennevois and Swann absent).

3. Discuss Historic Preservation Program with Councilmember Glover

Councilmember Glover reviewed his family history in Mesa and stated his support for historic preservation. In response to a question he stated the new owners of the Sunkist building have hired an architect with a historic preservation background and they are doing what they can to maintain as much of the historic building as possible.

John Wesley stated that one of the ongoing issues with creating new local historic districts is getting the prop 207 waivers. He asked the Councilmember his thoughts of the possibility of getting a district approved by Council without having all the property owners sign these waivers. Councilmember Glover responded that he recognizes the value of such districts to helping maintain neighborhoods, but that also needs to be balanced against the rights of property owners who do not want the district. When there are a lot of property owners who are residents and they are actively supporting the designation, as with West Side Clark, it will be easier to not be concerned about not having 100%. In the 2nd Avenue/Pasadena area it will be harder because of the number of absentee property owners and lack of local support for the district.

Chair Taylor asked what the Councilmember thought about creating a downtown historic district. Councilmember Glover stated he thought the market would have a lot to do with this. Councilmember Glover stated history should be maintained, if possible, through adaptive re-use, but should not be required.

Chair Taylor asked how the Board can help Council. Councilmember Glover encouraged the Board to continue to reach out to other councilmembers and learn about the issues in their districts.

4. Discuss the role of historic preservation in downtown transformation with Jeff McVay

Jeff McVay, City of Mesa Manager of Downtown Transformation, reviewed his new role with the City of Mesa to help implement the plans that have been prepared for the area and help make the transition to a more active and vibrant downtown. He stated he sees there is value to maintaining historic buildings as called for in the Central Main Plan. Incentives need to be put in place to encourage maintenance of the historic buildings and we can have a mix of old and new. We still have an authentic downtown and need

to maintain that as we bring in new people and businesses. The colonnade is an example of an idea that was good – provide shade for the sidewalks – but needs to be done better.

Chair Taylor asked about the status of the center city project. Mr. McVay responded that he is working with the competition winner to develop the next step of the design. Based on an economic study the size will likely be scaled down.

Chair Taylor asked about the Downtown Vision Committee. Mr. McVay stated he was able to attend all but one of their meetings. They are finalizing their work and it will likely be a strategic plan for how to move forward with the implementation of other plans.

Board member Alvrus commented on a visit she had to Savannah, Georgia. They have a nice mix of old and new. She was glad to hear Mr. McVay express the awareness of mixing historic structures with new development and thought we had a role to play in educating the Council on this direction.

5. Review and discuss student writing and poster contests for the coming year.

There was a brief discussion of what ages the poster contest should be designed for and whether we were planning to do both contests in a given year. The Board agreed we would do both contests, but did not take any action on the program.

6. Review possible modifications to the Historic Property webpage

This was an item that Board member Swann had brought up at the last meeting for discussion. Since she was unable to attend this meeting, it will be postponed to a future meeting when she can be in attendance.

7. Update on 2nd Avenue and Pasadena historic survey

John Wesley informed the Board that the consultant has been working on the analysis and write up of the area. The consultant will be meeting with SHPO to review his draft findings and analysis. He hopes to have the project wrapped up in about a month.

8. Updates on Museums, Exhibits, Committees and Events related to Historic Preservation

Board member Schaffer-Metcalf asked if there was anything new on the Buckhorn Baths or if there was anything the Board could do to further promote that project. It was the consensus of the other Board members there was not much that could be done at this point.

9. Board Member comments, questions, and future agenda items

- a. Confirm attendance at the July meeting. Chair Taylor commented that several Board members had indicated at the last meeting they would not be in attendance at the July meeting and he wanted to find out if we would have a quorum or not. It was determined we should have a quorum for the regular July meeting.
- b. Follow up on location for the September meeting. Sandra Sutton and Christine Close from the West Side Clark neighborhood stated they are working to see if the Board could meet at the Lutheran Church in their neighborhood. They also provided the Board with an update of their efforts to move forward with their historic district zoning.

John Wesley mentioned there will be an item on the next Board meeting for election of officers. Chair Taylor suggested next month may be a good time to have Gordon Sheffield, Zoning Administrator, come talk about the sign ordinance. Vice-Chair Mack-Allred mentioned that Ron Peters would like to discuss documentation of the Buckhorn Baths with the Board.

10. Adjournment

Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.

First Motion made by Board member Astle and seconded by Board member Alvrus.

Motion carried 5-0.

Supporting data is available for public review in the Planning Division,
Municipal Building, 55 N. Center St., Mesa, Arizona 85201

The City of Mesa is committed to making its public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. For special accommodations, please contact the Neighborhood Services Administration Office at 644-2387 or 644-2778 (TDD) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para asistencia en Español, llamar (480) 644-5597.